[27th November 1928

Education

Desirability of placing European and Muslim education on the same footing.

*710-A Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have at any time considered or propose to consider the necessity and desirability of placing Muslim education on the same footing as European education with a view to advance and spread education among the Muslim community more rapidly than at present; and

(b) whether the Government have received any representations on the above question from the Muhammadan Educational Association of South India?

A.—(a) No.
(b) No.

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED:—"May I know, Sir, the reasons why the Government do not propose to consider the necessity of placing Muslim education on the same footing as European education?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Because they do not think there is any necessity for such a step."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"May I know from the hon. the Education Minister whether he is aware that standards of life have grown equally for all communities and may I ask whether this distinction should not immediately go?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I do not exactly understand the import of the hon. Member's question."

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED:—"May I know why the Government think that there is no necessity?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"That question has already been answered."

Scheme for elementary and higher education among Muslims.

*710-B Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government have so far evolved any comprehensive scheme in respect of Muslim education, both elementary and higher, with reference to the special needs and the present condition of the Muslim community?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to Section IX of the Report on Public Instruction in the Madras Presidency for the quinquennium 1921–22 to 1926–27.

Recommendations of the Physical Educational Conference.

*711-A Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what the recommendations of the physical educational conference are with regard to the question of teaching lessons to students in all schools only for half a day, the other half day being allowed for recreation and games;

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(*b*) whether the Government have any such proposal before them for consideration ; and

(*c*) whether the Government propose to order all schools to be opened in the morning hours instead of from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The resolution of the conference on the subject was as follows :—

"That the Department of Public Instruction be requested to issue a circular to managements of institutions urging on them the importance of providing physical instruction as far as possible to every pupil of the school for not less than half an hour a day and requesting them to provide the necessary accommodation and additional teaching power for the purpose."

The Director of Public Instruction has issued a circular to all managements of schools that time-tables should be so arranged as to allow not less than three physical training periods for pupils up to the high school grade and two for high school pupils.

(*c*) The existing rules allow for the hours of instruction in schools being either in the mornings, noons or evenings. It is open to the managements of schools to consider the local and climatic conditions of the place and adopt the hours suitable to those conditions. The Government do not consider it necessary to issue a general order fixing school hours.

Steps taken for the improvement of physical strength of students in schools.

*711-B *Q*.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps the Government have taken for the improvement of the physical strength of the students in schools ; and

(*b*) whether the Government propose to take any and if so what steps to teach love of mother land and national unity as part of their curriculum to students in schools ?

A.—(*a*) (1) Physical education is a compulsory subject in elementary schools for boys. In secondary schools, provision for physical training and games is regarded as an essential part of the curriculum and as a precondition of recognition by the Educational Department.

(2) Provision is made in the Grant-in-Aid Code for the payment of grants to schools towards expenditure on—

(i) gymnasia and games ;
(ii) acquisition of lands for use as playgrounds ;
(iii) renting of playgrounds ;
(iv) improvements to playgrounds ;
(v) employment of physical training instructors.

(3) An agreement has been entered into with the Y.M.C.A. under which the Association places at the disposal of Government one-third of the time of its Physical Director in return for a monthly grant of Rs. 23.